

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the New Frankley in Birmingham Parish Council held at St. Christopher's Church Centre, Holly Hill, New Street, Frankley on 19 March 2001 at 1930 hours.

Present Councillor Sidney Grey MBE (in the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Karan Bolton, David Burton, Sheila Burton, Eric Carter, Michael Denny, Paul Kane, Derek Lewis, Kathleen Lewis, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Williams.

6 members of the public attended the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

MINUTES

141 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19 February 2001, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

142 The Chairperson referred to proposals by the City Council to withdraw funding from the Neighbourhood Forums Resource Centre. In response to a question from Councillor Carter, he explained that the centre provided computer services, information newsletters, and training for forum members. He felt that the future of the centre was relevant to the Parish Council and was happy with the way the Frankley Neighbourhood Forum and the Parish Council worked together. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the City Council expressing the concern of this Council about the withdrawal of funding from the Centre.

QUESTIONS

- 143 Councillor Carter referred to the recent arrival of council tax demands and asked if a breakdown of the Parish Council precept could be put in the next issue of the Frankley Neighbourhood news. It was agreed that the Clerk should provide this information for inclusion in the next issue.
- 144 Councillor Denny referred to the new constitution being implemented by the Frankley Church Community Project. The Project wished to have a representative from the Parish Council on its management committee. He requested that this matter be dealt with at the next meeting, and this was agreed.

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING ENVIRONMENTAL, HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

The following Minutes of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee were submitted -

(see interleaved document No. 1)

- 145 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 5 March 2001, be noted.

ACCOUNTS

The following draft payment list was submitted -

(see interleaved document No. 2)

It was moved, seconded and -

- 146 RESOLVED: That the payments, as set out in the document now submitted, be approved.

The Chairperson moved, and it was seconded and:

- 147 RESOLVED: That the order of business be altered to consider agenda items 8, 9, and 10 before agenda item 7.

BEECHES INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL: ELECTION OF GOVERNOR

It was proposed by Chairperson, seconded, and unanimously -

- 148 RESOLVED: That for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2001, Councillor David Burton be nominated to serve as a governor of Beeches Infant and Nursery School.

REQUEST FOR A BUS SHELTER IN RUBERY LANE

- 149 The Chairperson explained that a local resident had approached the Parish Council for support in an attempt to have the bus shelter at the former 63 bus terminus in Rubery Lane, which was now rarely used, moved to the present 63 city-bound bus stop on the opposite side of the road, across from the “Cock” public house. He added that Centro were not willing to move the shelter because it was still occasionally used but would in principle be willing to provide a shelter at the new stop. However, they had limited funds and a backlog of requests. It was agreed that the Clerk write to Centro expressing the Council's support for the request and urging the provision of a shelter.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

“A NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR GOVERNANCE”:
CITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION PAPER ON DEVOLUTION

- 150 Mr. Nick Partridge of the City Council gave a presentation on the consultation paper. He explained the proposals for the future government of the city, and for the creation of Ward Strategic Partnerships. It was possible that city council budgets such as street maintenance and lighting, street cleaning and community development would be devolved to ward level. The Council was continuing to support Neighbourhood Forums and hoped to build a network of 3 or 4 forums in each ward.

A long discussion took place. Several members expressed concerns in various areas:

- (i) there was a danger of centralising power too much in an executive Mayor or Leader and a small group of councillors;
- (ii) the independent non-political position of the Lord mayor was valuable and should be kept, and there was a danger that the position of Lord Mayor could be confused with that of the executive Mayor;
- (iii) there was a need to devolve more powers to a local level;
- (iv) the commitment to develop Neighbourhood Forums was difficult to reconcile with the threat to the funding of the Resource Centre.

REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN ON ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following report was submitted:

(see interleaved document no. 3)

151 Action was agreed as follows:

Minute No. 105: discharged

Minute No. 107: discharged

At 2034 hours, on the proposition of the Chairperson, the meeting was adjourned in order to allow members of the public to raise local issues.

LOCAL ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(A) Tudor Rose Day Centre

152 Mrs. Jean Bastable, Mrs. June Ridley and Mrs. Beverley Taylor explained the threat the centre caused by the proposal to withdraw funding from by Social Services Department, and handed a letter from the Department to the Chairperson.

(see interleaved document no.4)

They expressed particular concern at the small number of recent referrals to the centre from the Social Services Department and the feeling that the centre was being deliberately run down. After a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk write to the Social Services Department expressing the Parish Council's concern about the closure, asking for a report detailing how the need for this service in the area would be met, and requesting that a representative of the Department attend the April meeting of the Parish Council.

(B) Housing repair, Brightstone Road

153 Mr. Rodgers of Titania Close raised the matter of an outstanding repair to a door for an elderly tenant in Brightstone Road. Councillor Burton undertook to investigate the matter.

(C) Bus stop in Holly Hill Road near Titania Close

154 Mr. Rodgers also raised the question of this bus stop which was in a very exposed location and had no shelter. He asked if it could be moved. It was pointed out that the stop was in a purpose-built lay-by and Centro and the bus operator would be unwilling to move it; but the Clerk was asked to write to Centro asking if a shelter could be provided in this location.

(D) Measuring operation in Jubilee Road

155 Mrs. Ridley asked why a man had been seen walking Jubilee Close with a measuring wheel. The Chairperson explained that the Transportation Department were assessing all the closes in Frankley prior to them being adopted as public roads.

(E) Date of next meeting

156 Mr. Stephenson asked if the date could be confirmed. The Chairperson explained that it would be on April 16, the third Monday of the month, according to Standing Orders, even though this was a Bank Holiday.

(F) Pedestrian area in front of Gannow shops

157 Mr. Stephenson referred to the poor state of this paved area and the damage caused by delivery lorries driving onto it. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the City Council Economic Development Department's Property Services section drawing attention to the problem.

158 (G) Bus lay-by on Ormond Road by Rousay Close
Mr. Stephenson referred to the dangerous situation caused by road repairs being half done and then left. The barriers guarding the work had been thrown in the river. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the City Council Transportation Department requesting that the work be finished as quickly as possible.

159 (H) Green refuse collection project
Councillor Banks asked about progress on this matter. The Chairperson mentioned the continuing problem with clearance of the site by the doctor's surgery in New Street. The Clerk explained that he had been attempting to contact Mr. Tarry of the City Council Leisure Services DLO to discuss this and the way forward in the forthcoming year but had not been able to get hold of him. He emphasised the need for this Council to issue formal orders for the work once a year-long programme had been agreed and assured the Council that he would continue trying to contact the DLO.

The meeting ended at 2123 hours.

Signed

Chairperson